

BASEBALL

Ohtani, Japan's 'Babe Ruth,' picks Angels

23-year-old phenom can throw 100 mph as a pitcher and slug home runs as a hitter

By Keith Sharon
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Is he the next Babe Ruth? The next Fernando Valenzuela? The next Hideo Nomo with a pinch of Hideki Matsui thrown in for good measure? Here's what Shohei Ohtani represents to Southern California's Angels fans: hope. He has been described as the best player on the planet not currently playing in the major

leagues. He throws 100 mph with pinpoint control. He can hit mammoth home runs. He runs fast. He's huge. He's good looking. He probably has fine smelling breath. He's rumored to be nice. He wants to do it all — pitch, hit and play defense — in the big leagues. And he doesn't turn 24 until July. Are you ready to call the "Big A" what the Japanese might call it, the "Big Kana"?

"This is an exciting time for Angels fans," said Rob Rohm of Orange, who has an Angels shrine in his home. "What a Christmas present. I had meant to send in my ticket package renewal earlier in week," he added. "I'm definitely making sure to have it in today." That sound you hear is Angels fans (and Angels marketing officials) working their new ballplayer's name in to Christmas songs. "Oh-tani tree, Oh-tani tree, how lovely is your right arm?" Or how about: "Oh-tani night, the halo is shining brightly." The Ohtani decision signals



SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI — AP FILE PHOTO Japan's Shohei Ohtani pitches against South Korea during a semifinal game at the Premier12 world baseball tournament in Tokyo in 2015.

OHTANI » PAGE 9

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

A TRAGIC TOLL

LILAC FIRE	CREEK FIRE	THOMAS FIRE	SKIRBALL FIRE
San Diego County brush fire burns 105 buildings, 4,100 acres	Evacuations lifted with blaze in Sylmar area 70% contained	Ventura County confirms its first fire-related death	Despite 50% containment, some evacuation orders remain



PHOTO BY GENE BLEVINS

At least 29 horses died as the Creek fire exploded in the Kagel Canyon area above Sylmar on Tuesday. Some were padlocked in their pens.

Horses: Equestrian community devastated by deaths blamed on padlocked stalls, panic

By Elizabeth Chou
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Equestrian communities from Los Angeles to San Diego were reeling Friday after a week of relentless fires took the lives of prized thoroughbreds and beloved companions. The scene was grim at San Luis Rey Downs training center in San Diego, where estimates put the death toll in the Lilac fire, which broke out Thursday, as high as 40 horses. Among workers at the center was trainer Cliff Sise, who suffered burns on his chest and arm trying to get 2-year-old Scat Home Lady out of her stable.

HORSES » PAGE 4



FRANK BELLINO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Firefighters work on Lilac fire hot spots at the destroyed homes of Rancho Monserate Country Club on Friday.

"It happened so quickly that we were taken by surprise."

— Kari Digerose, who works at Gibson Ranch in Sunland, which evacuated safely

FOR MORE FIRE COVERAGE, SEE PAGES A4, A6, A7

Budget: Cal Fire has already burned through \$427 million allotted to battle major wildfires

By David Downey
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Slammed by the wine country infernos of October and this week's devastating Southern California firestorms, the state's firefighting agency has blown through its budget for battling major brush fires just six months into the fiscal year. As of Wednesday, Cal Fire had incurred expenses totaling \$490.3 million, well more than the \$426.9 million budgeted for fiscal 2017-18 to put out large wildfires, said Scott McLean, a spokesman for Cal Fire in Sacramento.

BUDGET » PAGE 4

THEME PARKS

A chance to own Disney items

More than 800 pieces of rare memorabilia are going up for bids next week

By Marla Jo Fisher
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Disneyland fans have the chance to see and buy rare memorabilia, including an original prospectus that Walt Disney used to lure investors to the park, a cast member's costume from Pirates of the Caribbean, artifacts from the extinct Tower of Terror ride, a 1967 body of an Autopia car, a concept drawing of the Sleeping Beauty Castle and much more. Want a piece of the Disneyland railroad? Buy an actual wheel from a train, estimated to fetch \$3,000 to \$5,000. The item expected to draw the highest price is the animatronic "Fuzzball" character from the "Captain EO" attraction, which has an estimated auction value of \$50,000 to \$60,000. Potential bidders for the "Remembering Disneyland" auction can view the exhibit of more than 800 items now at the Van Eaton Galleries in Sherman Oaks, bid early or bid live during the auction. AUCTION » PAGE 8



CINDY YAMANAKA — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The original Zorro costume, original wrinkles and all, worn by Guy Williams during appearances at Disneyland will be auctioned Dec. 16 at Van Eaton Galleries.

INSIDE

Bright lights and big planes at air museum

Colored lights shining on aircraft at March Field Air Museum saluted veterans, victims of tragedies and others. LOCAL 1

There's more to Christmas decor than silver and gold

Using nontraditional Christmas colors is one way to freshen the holiday decor inside your residence. HOME + GARDEN 1

Snead a big player in Rams' change of fortune

General Manager Les Snead deserves much credit for the team's turnaround, columnist Vincent Bonsignore says. SPORTS 1

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Daniel Fortune and San Bernardino's Cajon High beat Moreno Valley's Rancho Verde High, 70-23, Friday night in the Division 2-AA regional championship to move on to the state title game in Sacramento on Dec. 15. SPORTS 1

TERRY PIERSON — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WEATHER

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